

**Mansfield Advisory Committee
on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities**

Tuesday February 26, 2013

Attendance: Gloria Bent, Cristina Colon- Semenza, Tammie Meyers, Jennifer Tanner, Imanuel Wexler, Kevin Grunwald (staff)

Regrets: Fred Goetz, Donna Korbel (UCONN), Kathy Easley (staff),

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.,

Approval of the Minutes

After review the minutes of January 22, 2013 were approved with the correction of the spelling of Semenza and Buchanan.

New Business (other added by consensus)

1. Welcome new members

Introductions were shared. K. Grunwald gave an overview of the committee's responsibilities and areas of focus.

2. Bicentennial Pond Universal Access Trail

K. Grunwald discussed the town's plan to make modifications to the Bicentennial Pond Trail and the inclusion of contiguous accessible components. A consultant has worked with town staff in identifying areas where accessibility can be accomplished. A plan will be developed and submitted for funding. The planning team meets again on 2/27 at 3:30 p.m. in the Community Center conference room. Members of MAPD are welcome to attend.

3. Storrs Center Parking and Walkways

The committee discussed issues of accessibility in the Storrs downtown that have come to committee members' attention – lack of on street accessible parking spaces and the lack of visibility of the crosswalks that align with new curb cuts. K. Grunwald has been in touch with Cynthia Van Zelm who says decisions about accessible parking are in the hands of Leyland Associates and UCONN. K. Grunwald will research regulations on accessible on street parking. The committee agreed unanimously to have K. Grunwald draft a letter to UCONN, Leyland, Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the town of Mansfield.

4. Other (inclusion agreed to by the committee)

C. Colon-Semenza suggests the committee take on the project of clarifying what accessibility means on listings of trails and parks in town. Some trails and parks may be designated “accessible” but are not universally accessible. The committee agreed to take this on as a long-term goal.

Old Business

1. Mansfield Tomorrow

The committee reviewed ways of participating.

2. ADA study

Continued to the next meeting when Donna Korbel is present. J. Tanner suggested each committee member take a topic, research, and report back to others. K. Grunwald will send electronic copies of the ADA Act to committee members.

3. UN Treaty on the Rights of those with Disabilities

The committee agreed by consensus to take no further action on this issue because of the length of time which

has passed since the failure of the U.S. Senate to bring the treaty to a vote.

3. Accessibility issues previously identified

- Curb cuts on Bolton Road and South Eagleville Road were discussed again. K. Grunwald reported on a situation when snow and ice had not been cleared from the curb cut on South Eagleville Road near the UCONN apartments and the Community Center. At the time it was difficult to determine what entity was responsible for maintaining the curb cut.
- K. Grunwald shared correspondence he received from L. Hultgren indicating that missing curb cuts will be put in once permits are issued by DOT.
- The committee reviewed some of the accessibility issues previously identified that fall into this category. K. Grunwald will provide copies of Mansfield Supply correspondence to I. Wexler.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Next meeting - 3/26/2013 @ 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Bent, Recording Secretary

Approved 3/26/2013